



In the Matter of Land adjoining The Red Lion Inn,
Turners Hill, Worth, West Sussex.

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land adjoining The Red Lion Inn, Turners Hill, Worth, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL 333 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the West Sussex County Council of which no person is registered under section 4 of the Commons Registration Act 1965 as the owner.

Following upon the public notice of this reference Mr P A Gibson claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question and no other person claimed to have information as to its ownership.

I held a hearing for the purpose of inquiring into the question of the ownership of the land at Lewes on 17 December 1976.

At the hearing Mr Gibson appeared in person and the Worth Parish Council was represented by Mrs A Corbett-Jones, its Clerk.

The land in question has on the western side of the road from Haywards Heath to Crawley and is bounded on the west by an approach road, to the west of which lies Mr Gibson's residence, known as "Mantlemas".

By a conveyance made 29 September 1934 between (1) Ada Catherine Lethbridge (2) Mervyn Campbell Campbell-Jones "Mantlemas" was conveyed to Mr Campbell-Jones. The plan on this conveyance shows the land the subject of this reference marked as "Greenward", but it is not included in the parcels.

The property comprised in the 1934 conveyance was the subject of a conveyance made 29 July 1968 between (1) Mervyn Campbell-Jones (2) Patrick Alan Gibson and Lesley Mary Gibson, his wife. On 31 May 1968 Mr Campbell-Jones made a statutory declaration stating that he knew of no adverse claim to any right or title he might have to the land in question by virtue of possession since 1934. Since purchasing "Mantlemas" Mr Gibson has continued to use the land in question, in particular by grazing ponies on it and by storing a 4-ton sailing boat on it.

On this evidence I am satisfied that Mr and Mrs Gibson have a possessory title to the land, and I shall accordingly direct the West Sussex County Council, as registration authority, to register them as the owners of the land under section 8(2) of the Act of 1965.

I am required by regulation 30(1) of the Commons Commissioners Regulations 1971 to explain that a person aggrieved by this decision as being erroneous in point of law may, within 6 weeks from the date on which notice of the decision is sent to him, require me to state a case for the decision of the High Court.

Dated this 14th day of February 1976


Chief Commons Commissioner